Policy for granting citizenship to Pak nationals

†1699. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that taking advantage of laxity of Indian laws and negligence of Government agencies, many Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals are making their living in India;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of applications from Pakistani nationals pending currently for Indian citizenship together with the State-wise details thereof; and

(d) Government's policy for providing Indian citizenship to these Pakistani nationals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Government is aware of the problem of illegally staying foreigners (mainly from Bangladesh).

(b) The Power under section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in the country unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. They have been advised to launch special drives from time to time to detect and deport illegally staying foreigners.

(c) Citizenship applications have to go through different stages under State Government/Union Territory and Central Government. Therefore, no definite pendency figure for such applications can be specified.

(d) All applications for Indian citizenship are considered under various provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Rules made thereunder. There is no special policy with respect to Pak nationals.

Separate Statutory Board for Konkan region

1700. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request from the State Government of Maharashtra

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.